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MART 579.01: Film Directing III

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MAR 579 (01)

Directing III

Autumn 2013 - The University of Montana, Missoula

Professor Michael Murphy - McGill 229

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a project-based course that combines actors and directors in the collaborative creation of a short film. The model for the collaborations comes from directors like Mike Leigh (*Naked*, *Secrets & Lies*, *Vera Drake*) who works in a non-traditional fashion in order to generate script, plot and characters through improvisation. Actors will be cast with a director, who will then work with them in the creation of a 5-10 minute film, which will be shot by the end of the semester.

Aside from the creation of a project, the following areas will be dealt with both from an actors and a director's perspective:

- METHODS OF IMPROVISATION
- CHARACTER LAYERING AND DEVELOPMENT
- THEMATIC DEVELOPMENT
- USE AND REITERATION OF LOCATION
- USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHARACTER TRAITS
- IN-DEPTH BACKSTORY
- ANALYSIS OF FILMS BY CASSAVETTES, LEIGH AND OTHERS WORKING IN NON-TRADITIONAL METHODS

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.

THIS IS A LABORATORY/PRODUCTION CLASS. IT IS REQUIRED THAT YOU ATTEND EACH SESSION. THERE WILL ALSO BE REHEARSALS OUTSIDE OF CLASS THAT ARE A PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORK FOR THIS CLASS, IN THE SAME WAY YOU WOULD BE REQUIRED TO HAVE HOMEWORK IN ANY CLASS. THESE OUT-OF-CLASS SESSIONS/SHOOTS, WILL REQUIRE BETWEEN

1 AND 4 HOURS PER WEEK.

THERE ARE NO EXCUSED ABSENCES.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/vpsa/index.cfm/page/1339>

DIRECTING /ACTING FOR THE CAMERA SCHEDULE

Week #1 August 26	View <i>Happy-Go-Lucky</i> , dir. Mike Leigh Thematics exercise/ Directors Discuss Mike Leigh interview and Discuss goals/criteria/schedule ASSIGN: JOURNAL (ACTORS) SCENARIO LOG (DIRECTORS) RABIGER EXERCISE: AUTOBIOGRAPHY (ALL) THEMATIC (DIRECTORS) CASTING: Directors and Actors joined!
Week #2 Sept. 2	LABOR DAY Share and discuss autobio exercise and potential story/character ideas ONLINE! Friday: Interview Actors 1
Week #3 Sept. 9	Scenario/Character/Thematic ideas "Casting" of actors Improvisation and backstory Character assignments/Improv Backstory only Assignment: Personal Objects/Locations Friday Meet with actors for Casting Re-interview
Week #4 Sept. 16	Scenario Development/Backstory reports/location possibilities Continue scenario development Immediate Backstory improves
Week #5 Sept. 23	Development Improv
Week #6 Sept. 30	Shooting Week #1 New scenarios Improv and prep
Week #7 Oct. 7	Shooting Week #2 New scenarios Improv and prep
Week #8 Oct. 14	Shooting Week #3 New scenarios Improv and prep

Week #9 Oct. 21	Shooting Week #4 New scenarios Improv/prep
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Week #10 Oct. 28	Shooting Week #5 New scenarios Improv and prep
Week #11 Nov. 4	Beginning edits
Week #12 Nov. 11	Beginning edits
Week #13 Nov. 18	Beginning edits
Week #14 Nov. 25	Thanksgiving
Week #15 Dec. 2	Intermediate edits
Final Class!	<u>View Final Cuts Films</u>